

**Region 4 SuperJTI 2001 Nomination**  
**ARKWRIGHT DUMP & INTERNATIONAL MINERAL & CHEMICAL INC. (IMC)**  
**FERTILIZER PLANT SITES**  
**Spartanburg, South Carolina**

**Introduction:**

The Arkwright and Forest Park communities are located in Spartanburg, SC on the south side of town. These two communities are 96 percent African American. The total population for the City of Spartanburg is 43,687 and African Americans make up 46 percent of the total population.

The Arkwright/Forest Park Communities are impacted by two Superfund caliber sites, the first site, the Arkwright Dump is an abandoned municipal landfill and the second site is a former fertilizer plant called International Mineral and Chemical Company (IMC). Also located in the area are an abandoned textile mill and one active textile mill, an operating chemical plant, two additional dumps and several suspected illegal disposal areas. These two neighborhoods are concerned about health problems they are experiencing, economic decay and blight in the area, public safety, and property values. This area has not had any substantial commercial development for many years and the vast majority of normal retail needs are not available in their community. Residents must travel miles away either on the east side or west side for ordinary purchases.

Our goal for requesting the Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (Superfund JTI) will be to address training and employment needs for multiple environmental cleanup efforts in the Arkwright/Forest Park Communities. We believe the Superfund JTI program will provide additional resources necessary to precipitate partnerships and cooperation from others which will then expedite renewal and provide economic benefit to residents. Resources garnered to date include federal and state environmental investigation activities, the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Grant and other federal agencies that have committed to helping residents in this area.

**Site Description and Status:**

The Arkwright Site is a rectangular shaped property of approximately 30 acres and preliminary investigations have revealed elevated levels of contamination in soils, surface water and ground water. The site is bounded to the east by Fair Forest Creek, to the south and southwest by residences, to the north by the former International Minerals and Chemical Company (IMC) fertilizer plant, and to the west by Rhone-Poulenc facility (Rhodia Division). The immediate vicinity of the Arkwright site includes residential, industrial, and undeveloped areas. Several private wells in the area were impacted by contamination. During the 1950's and 60's, the City of Spartanburg reportedly used the Dump for disposal of municipal, automotive and medical wastes. In 1972, the landfill was closed and a soil cover was placed over the buried wastes. In 1976, the City sold the property to a private citizen. There are no known operating records or permits for this site.

The Remedial Investigation sampling efforts began on July 24, 2000 and will continue for approximately 30 days. Results from the RI investigation are expected to be presented to the public after internal review sometime in December 2000 or January 2001.

The IMC facility property is approximately 41 acres, and is bounded to the east by Fair Forest Creek, to the south by Arkwright Dump and residences, to the northwest by Arkwright Mills, and north by undeveloped property. The facility operated from 1910 until 1986, when operations ceased. The facility was used over this entire period for nitrogen-phosphate potassium (N-P-K) fertilizer production. Wastewater from operations at the plant were directed into on-site lagoons prior to discharge into Fair Forest Creek. Sulfuric acid and a metal furnace dust product was also used in the manufacturing process. Sulfuric acid was stored in tanks on site. Production activities at IMC ceased in 1986. Lagoons on-site were closed and some sludge and sediments were removed. Contamination found during preliminary sampling performed during the Site Investigation (SI) indicate contamination in soil, surface soil, surface water and ground water.

#### **Community Involvement and Interest:**

EPA has met with the community on numerous occasions in the past, including several public meetings, briefings, and workshops. The community group, ReGenesis, is the recognized leadership of local residents in the area. ReGenesis reportedly has a membership of more than 1400 residents in the area. Its chairman, Harold Mitchell, was appointed to serve on the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). The ReGenesis group has received a \$25,000 Technical Assistance Plan grant from the City of Spartanburg (PRP). ReGenesis has hired as their advisor, the Pinnacle Group from Greenville, South Carolina to interpret and comment on site-related documents developed under the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

EPA recently awarded ReGenesis an Environmental Justice Grant for \$20,000 for environmental education and outreach to the targeted communities of Arkwright and Forest Park, and in July 2000, EPA awarded a grant for \$100,000 to Spartanburg County government to be used for the planning and redevelopment of the Arkwright community. This grant called the Superfund Redevelopment Pilot Grant will be used for reuse assessment and public outreach to help determine the site's future use. The program is a part of a national effort to help communities return Superfund sites to productive use.

#### **Job Training Sought:**

It is anticipated that participants will be trained for various jobs related to construction, including road construction, infrastructure, concrete workers, landscaping, heavy equipment operators, environmental sampling technicians and laborers.

#### **Contacts:**

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**8/2/00**